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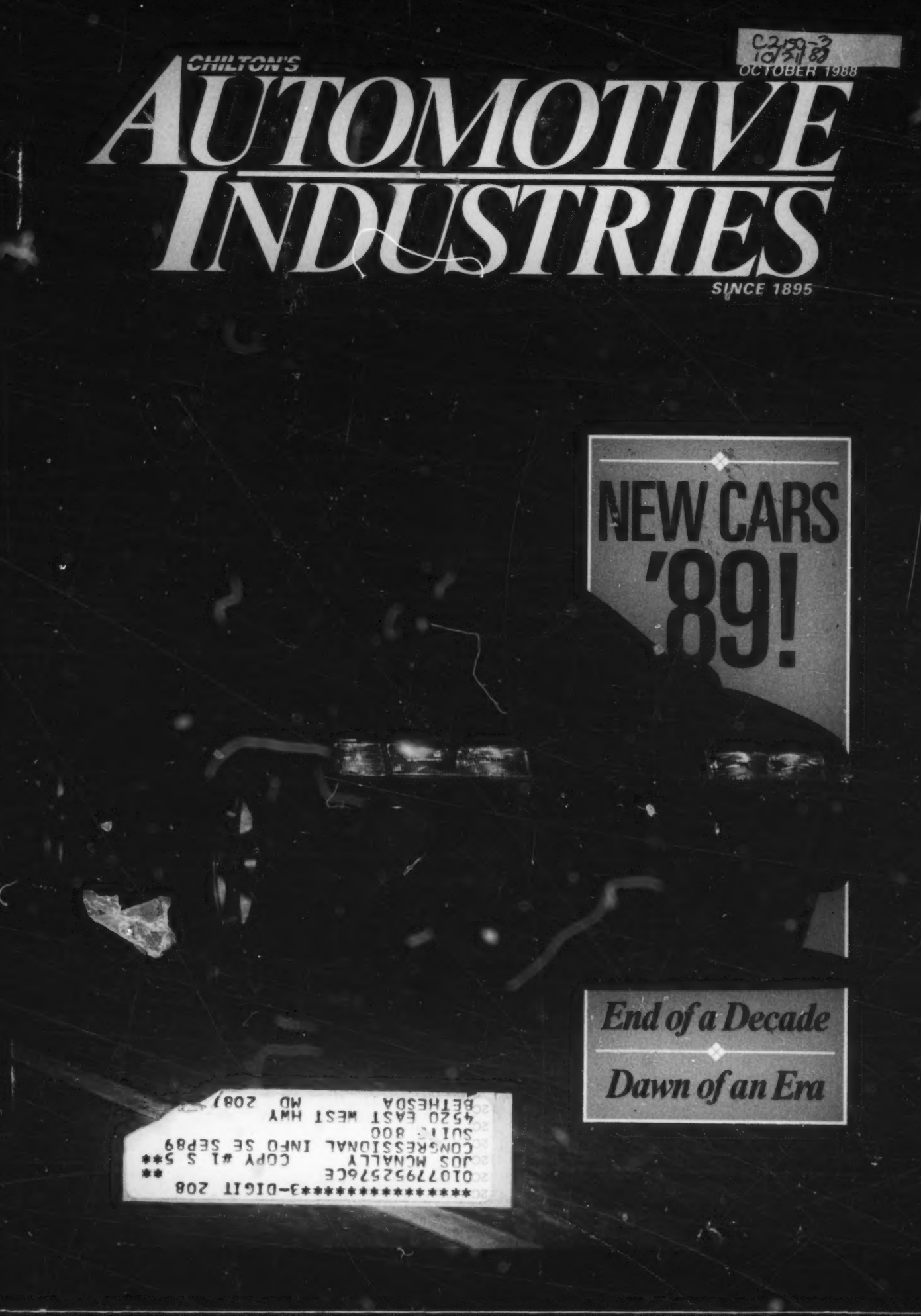

NEW CARS '89!

End of a Decade

Dawn of an Era

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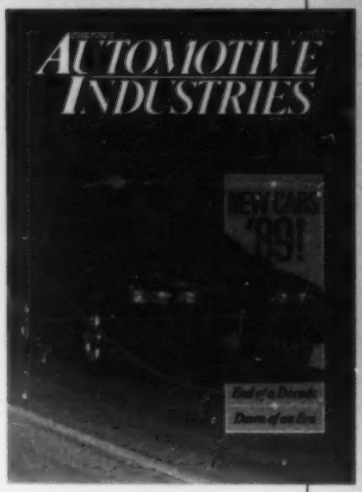

Ford's all-new Cougar and T-bird, along with Chevy's King Kong ZR-1 Corvette and the SHO Taurus, lead a performance resurgence from Detroit this season. Our coverage of the best of the '89s begins on page 40. Photography: Jay Asquini

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RVX SURVEY RESULTS

"Damn the torpedoes, full steam ahead!"

By John McElroy

If *AI* readers had anything to say about the feasibility and desirability of a Robotic Vehicle Expressway (RVX), the US would be building one today. Based on the results of the survey that ran in our August issue, *AI* readers demonstrate overwhelming support for the RVX concept. And though the survey response rate was small (161 respondents), we believe it reflects the sentiments of most people in the auto industry.

More than 96% of the respondents believe that the RVX concept is technically feasible, but perhaps more importantly, 75% of the respondents feel that it is a desirable project to pursue. Interestingly, 42% of the respondents believe the first 300-mile RVX segment could be in operation within 10 years, while fewer than 7% felt it would take more than 25 years. And 67% said it would have a positive impact on the auto industry.

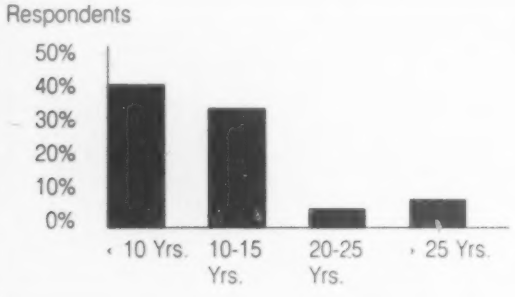
In these days of anti-tax-hike sentiments, it was encouraging to see that 63% of the respondents believe that the American public would support funding for RVX research.

When given the opportunity to choose how to distribute $10 billion in R&D for space programs, RVX or the national aerospace plane, *AI* readers give space programs a slight advantage. But when given the choice of how they would fund land-based personal transportation options, they chose RVX over efforts to reduce urban congestion, to install an American autobahn, or to develop an intelligent vehicle/roadway system. And 42% would support a funding level that would give the US a leadership position with RVX.

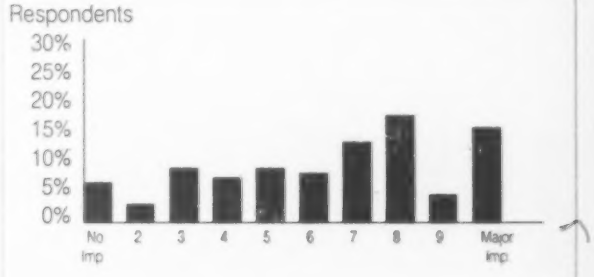
Though you might expect people in the US auto industry to reflect protectionist sentiments, 63% of the respondents would allow foreign companies to participate in an RVX program. "How would you keep them out?" asks one reader.

Importantly, over 48% of the respondents are degreed professionals, which indicates they have a good grasp of the technical hurdles that would have to be overcome. And one-third of the respondents are 40 to 50 years old, which reflects a mature and experienced age bracket.

When do you think the first 300-mile RVX segment could begin operation?



On a scale of 1 to 10, what impact will the RVX have on the US auto industry in the next 25 years?



Given $10 billion to spend on the following programs, what percentage would you distribute to each program?

Program	% of $10 Billion ‹ 20	20-40	40-60	60-80	› 80
Space	14.9%	34.7%	33.5%	11.8%	4.9%
RVX	19.8%	42.8%	30.4%	3.7%	1.8%
Aerospace Plate	41.6%	39.7%	9.9%	1.2%	0.6%

How would you personally distribute funding among the personal transportation options proposed in the RVX article?

Program	% of Funding ‹ 20	20-40	40-60	60-80	› 80
RVX	19.2%	32.2%	26.7%	10.5%	1.8%
Congestion reduction	34.1%	34.1%	17.3%	3.1%	1.2%
Intelligent vehicle/rdwy	34.1%	34.7%	13.6%	1.2%	---
US Autobahn	42.2%	11.1%	13.0%	2.4%	3.1%

RVX SURVEY RESULTS

1. **Do you believe the RVX is technically feasible?**
   96.2% Yes **3.7%** No
2. **Assuming the RVX is feasible, how desirable an addition is the RVX to the US transportation network?** (Check one box on the scale of 1 to 10 below)

1				5					10
5.6%	**7.4%**	**3.1%**	**1.8%**	**6.2%**	**5.6%**	**8.0%**	**21%**	**9.3%**	**31.6%**
NOT NEEDED									HIGHLY DESIRABLE

3. **When do you think the first 300 mile RVX segment could begin operation?**
   42.2% ‹ 10 years **4.9%** 20-25 years
   34.7% 10-15 years **6.8%** › 25 years
   9.9% 15-20 years
4. **What impact will RVX have on the US auto industry in the next 25 years?** (Check one box on the scale of 1 to 10 below)

1				5					10
5.6%	**3.1%**	**9.9%**	**6.8%**	**8.0%**	**7.4%**	**15%**	**18.6%**	**4.9%**	**21.1%**
NO IMPACT									MAJOR IMPACT

5. **Do you feel that the American public would support funding of RVX R&D?**
   63.3% Yes **36.7%** No
6. **Given $10 billion to spend on the following R&D programs, what % would you distribute to each program below?**

	Percentage				
	‹ 20	20-40	40-60	60-80	› 80
Space	**14.9%**	**34.7%**	**33.5%**	**11.8%**	**4.9%**
RVX	**19.8%**	**42.8%**	**30.4%**	**3.7%**	**1.8%**
Aerospace plane	**41.6%**	**39.7%**	**9.9%**	**1.2%**	**0.6%**

7. **How would you personally distribute funding among the personal transportation options proposed in the RVX article?**

	Percentage				
	‹ 20	20-40	40-60	60-80	› 80
RVX	**19.2%**	**32.2%**	**26.7%**	**10.5%**	**1.8%**
Urban congestion reduction	**34.1%**	**34.1%**	**17.3%**	**3.1%**	**1.2%**
Intelligent vehicle/roadway systems	**34.1%**	**34.7%**	**13.6%**	**1.2%**	---
U.S. Autobahn	**42.2%**	**11.1%**	**13.0%**	**2.4%**	**3.1%**

8. **What spending level would you select for RVX R&D for the next five years?** (NOTE: A one-year gas tax increase is presumed to fund five years of R&D)
   11.8% Zero **42.8%** Leadership (2.0 cent)
   11.1% Minimum start (0.5 cent) **13.6%** National priority (› 2.0 cent)
   21.1% Keep up (1.0 cent)
9. **If the US moves forward with an RVX program, should it permit foreign companies to participate?**
   63.3% Yes **31.6%** No
10. **What is your current position in the Automotive Industry?**
    .6% Production worker **27.3%** Middle management
    1.8% Office worker **6.8%** Executive
    47.8% Degreed professional **4.3%** Corporate Officer
    11.8% Other (specify) _____
11. **What is your age?**
    18.0% Less than 30 years old **14.9%** 50 to 60 years old
    26.7% 30 to 40 years old **9.3%** More than 60 years old
    31.6% 40 to 50 years old